

ART 34 AMDT

CLAIMS (Amended)

1. (Amended) A heat-treating method for a packaging product, comprising:

providing a packaging product formed by

5 enclosing a content material within a packaging material comprising at least a layer of hydrophilic gas-barrier resin selected from the group consisting of ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer, polymetaxylylene adipamide and glycolic acid (co-)polymer, and

10 heat-treating the packaging product with hot water,

wherein the hot water is caused to contain a water-soluble compound.

15 2. A heat-treating method according to Claim 1, wherein the hot water has a temperature of 60-100°C to effect a boiling heat-treatment.

20 3. A heat-treating method according to Claim 1, wherein the hot water has a temperature exceeding 100°C to effect a retort heat-treatment.

25 4. A heat-treating method according to any of Claim 1 to 3, wherein the hot water contains the water-soluble compound at a concentration exceeding 0.1 wt.%.

ART 34 AMEND

5. A heat-treating method according to any of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the hot water contains the water-soluble compound at a concentration of at least 1 wt.%.
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6. A heat-treating method according to any of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the water-soluble compound is an inorganic electrolyte.

10 7. A heat-treating method according to Claim 6, wherein the water-soluble compound is a water-soluble inorganic salt.

15 8. A heat-treating method according to Claim 7, wherein the water-soluble compound is a chloride selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, and potassium chloride.

20 9. A heat-treating method according to Claim 8, wherein the water-soluble compound is sodium chloride.

25 10. A heat-treating method according to any of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the water-soluble compound is a water-soluble organic compound.

11. A heat-treating method according to Claim

ART 34 AMDT

10, wherein the water-soluble compound is a water-soluble alcohol.

12. (Deleted)

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15. (Amended) A heat-treating method according to any of Claims 1 to 11, wherein the packaging material has a multi-layer structure.

16. A heat-treating method according to Claim 15, wherein the hydrophilic resin layer is disposed as a surface layer contacting the hot water of the packaging material.

17. A heat-treating method according to Claim

ART 34 AMDT

15, wherein the hydrophilic resin layer is disposed as an inner layer not directly contacting the hot water of the packaging material.

5 18. A heat-treating method according to Claim 17, wherein the gas-barrier resin is glycolic acid (co-)polymer.

10 19. (Amended) A packaged product, which has been heat-treated by a heat-treating method according to any one of Claims 1 to 11 and Claims 15 to 18.

15 20. A packaged product according to Claim 19, wherein the heat-treated packaging material has a haze below 20%.

20 21. A heat-treated packaged product, comprising a heat-treated packaging material having a multi-layer structure including an inner layer of a hydrophilic gas-barrier resin layer selected from the group consisting of ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer and glycolic acid (co-)polymer, and a content material enclosed within the packaging material,
25 wherein the heat-treated packaging material has a haze below 20%.

ART 34 AMDT

22. A packaged product according to Claim 21, wherein the hydrophilic gas-barrier resin is ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer.

5 23. A packaged product according to Claim 21, wherein the hydrophilic gas-barrier resin is glycolic acid (co-)polymer.

10 24. A packaged product according to any of Claims 19 to 23, wherein the packaged material has been subjected to a heat-shrinking treatment during the heat treatment.